

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-
OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF
2003

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce H.R. 1683, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2003. Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member LANE EVANS, as well as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Benefits Subcommittee, HENRY BROWN and MICHAEL MICHAUD, respectively, join me as original cosponsors of the bill. H.R. 1683 would provide a cost-of-living adjustment to veterans' benefits, effective December 1, 2003.

The VA Committee periodically reviews the service-connected disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) programs to ensure that the benefits provide reasonable and adequate compensation for disabled veterans and their families. Based on this review, Congress acts annually to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in compensation and DIC benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has provided increases in these rates for every fiscal year since 1976. The Administration's fiscal year 2004 budget submission, as well as the House Budget Resolution, includes funding for an increase that is currently estimated to be 2.0 percent.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY
OF KUNA, IDAHO

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Samuel Johnston and the proud community of Kuna, Idaho. Sergeant Johnston is serving in the Iraq War as a member of the Idaho National Guard. He was deployed to Kuwait in January—leaving his 60-acre farm unattended. Last week his neighbors in Kuna finished spring planting on the Johnston farm.

Francis Murphey organized the volunteer group consisting of Dick Deutsche, Alan White, Leonard Flynn, Darrell Lee Robertson, Dave Reynolds, Jack Noble, John McPherson, Lavar K. and Layne Thornton, and Ed, Gayle and Roger Hodges.

I bring to the attention of the House these residents of Kuna, Idaho as they exemplify the American spirit of cooperation and patriotism by providing for Sergeant Johnston and his family—while he, in turn, serves and protects our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Nos. 109, 110, and 111 on

April 7, 2003, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of women's basketball and to pay tribute to the University of Connecticut women's basketball team.

The Huskies have won 76 of their last 77 games including a record breaking 70 wins in a row on their way to winning their second national title on April 8, 2003. They are the first women's basketball team ever to win the national championship without a senior on the team. They achieved this distinction by defeating outstanding teams from Texas and Tennessee in the Final Four.

Geno Auriemma, Chris Dailey, their assistants, Lew Perkins, and the entire UConn program are to be commended for their continued pursuit of excellence both on and off the basketball court. They are a credit to women's sports and college athletics in general.

Coach Auriemma paid a great tribute to Pat Summitt and the Tennessee team, citing that UConn beat the best women's basketball program in the country. Though his Huskies were victorious, the real winner was women's athletics.

With all the talk about changing Title IX, this Final Four bears testimony on the wisdom of that policy. Texas, Duke, Tennessee, and Connecticut brought women's basketball to another level. For purists who follow sports, its reminiscent of baseball in the 1950s and 60s. There is a purity about the women's game that is unique and endearing and transcends gender.

For the University of Connecticut team, the first ever group of all underclassmen to win the national title, what a lasting tribute to your dedication, stamina, spirit, and will to win.

They say that teams are an extension of their coach. Clearly the UConn women's program is personified in Coach Auriemma and in their leader Diana Taurasi. The Supremes had Diana Ross, the British had Princess Diana. Connecticut has "D," Diana Taurasi, simply the best women's basketball player in the country.

While Diana Taurasi at times carried this team on her back, the championship could not have been won without a team effort. Ann Strother will be remembered for shaking off a tough tournament to play her best game in the biggest game. The flawless ball handling and clutch three pointers by Maria Conlon freed Taurasi to focus on shooting and driving to the basket. The solid inside play of Jessica Moore, Barbara Turner, and Willnett Crockett kept the offense balanced and the defense off guard. And who will forget Ashley Battle's steal of the ball to seal the victory. Not to be overlooked are the contributions throughout the year of Morgan Valley, Ashley Valley, Stacey Marron, and Nicole Wolff.

I only hope Geno and Kathy, Chris Dailey, and all the coaches get to relax and enjoy the moment, because the expectation for a threepeat has already started.

Lastly, this great game with great teams was played out by young women on a national stage in what will go down as a tournament for the ages, and will inspire countless dreams of girls and boys who aspire to excel in sports and seize the moment.

I am further delighted to collect my dinner wager from Harold Ford, Jr. of Tennessee, a future President of the United States. I will enjoy every morsel of this meal as I brag on the Huskies, Diana Taurasi, the Big East, and another future President, Joe Lieberman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the University of Connecticut's fourth women's basketball national championship and celebrating the game of women's basketball and the continued success of women's athletics.

HONORING THE CITY OF
MILLEDGEVILLE

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the City of Milledgeville, Georgia, on the occasion of this historic city's year-long bicentennial celebration.

Situated just west of the Oconee River on what was then the edge of Georgia's frontier, Milledgeville was founded in 1803 after a long search by a Georgia legislature-commissioned expedition to find a new capital city. The city was named for John Milledge, who at the time was a popular Georgia governor. Within a year of its founding, the city was declared the official seat of Georgia's state government, becoming the only city outside Washington, D.C. designed specifically to be a capital city. As the capital, Milledgeville was a key location for many historic events in Georgia's history, including the 1861 signing of the Ordinance of Secession at the Old Capitol and a stopping place in 1864 for General Sherman, who slept in the Governor's Mansion as he passed through on his infamous March to the Sea. In 1868, Georgia moved its state capitol to Atlanta, but Milledgeville continued to prosper and grow, becoming home to a thriving university and new businesses while still keeping an eye on its antebellum past. Last year, the city welcomed more than 60,000 visitors to see such attractions as the Old State Capitol, the Governor's Mansion and a number of other old homes that showcase the city's true Southern style.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this fine community of individuals who, over the years, have worked hard to build their city into what it is today. This year, the city is welcoming visitors from across the nation to join in celebrating their first 200 years of history. Part of this celebration will include the dedication of Georgia's Antebellum Capitol Museum, an old-fashioned independence day celebration, a black-tie bicentennial ball and monthly lectures highlighting the people and places that have helped make Milledgeville truly unique.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the City of Milledgeville for its 200 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 7, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 109, 110, and 111. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 109 on Suspending the Rules and Passing H.R. 1055, the Dr. Roswell N. Beck Post Office Building Designation Act; rollcall vote 110 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 127, as Amended, Expressing the Sense of Congress that a month should be designated as "Financial Literacy for Youth Month," and rollcall vote 111 on Suspending the Rules and Passing, as Amended H.R. 1368, the Norman Shumway Post Office Building Designation Act.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 109, 110, and 111.

A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL COELHO
FOR 50 YEARS OF HELPING
AMERICANS WITH FINANCIAL
SECURITY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate Daniel S. Coelho, a good friend and mentor of mine, as he celebrates his 50th year as a leader in the financial security industry. As he celebrates this milestone, he can take pride in having helped thousands of families to ensure their financial future and start productive new businesses.

Many of my colleagues know that I began my professional life as an independent insurance agent, specializing in whole life insurance. It was during those early years that I came to know Daniel Coelho, who was my general agent with Penn Mutual Life and helped me learn the trade and how important these policies can be for American families.

Americans today have an entire universe of options to invest in their future, from Individual Retirement Accounts to 401k savings. But before any of these were established, whole life insurance was the most important way for American families to plan for their future. Millions of families ensured that their spouses and children would have financial security, while at the same time laying a foundation for their own retirement. And millions of entrepreneurs have used these policies as the only way to get capital to start the small businesses that are the bedrock of our economy.

Dan Coelho has spent 5 decades in this industry, establishing a record of business ethics and policy leadership that has earned the trust of thousands of families who have counted on him and his firm to lay their financial future. His advice and support has helped entrepreneurs create thousands of small businesses—many of which are now large and successful firms.

A California native born to immigrant parents, Dan graduated from University of Cali-

fornia, Berkeley in 1950 after capping his college career by being elected student body president. He went to work for Bechtel Corporation in Arkansas, where he met his future wife, Jenny Johnson.

After service in the Korean conflict, Dan entered his life insurance career with the Penn Mutual Life General Agency in San Francisco, and was appointed General Agent in Detroit in 1957. After that agency was given the company's President's Award, he was offered the Los Angeles agency in 1962. Over the next 23 years, the Los Angeles agency grew into one of the nation's largest, and was renamed Resources Financial. It now offers a full range of investment and estate planning and business services for small and large companies.

Daniel Coelho has become known to many of my colleagues as a Core Group Member for the Association for Advanced Life Underwriters, which seeks to protect these basic investments for Americans. There is no doubt that some in government have had their eye on these pools of individual financial security as potential sources for taxation, and investors should thank Dan Coelho and his fellows for watching over their interests in Washington and state capitals.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of families owe their financial peace of mind to Daniel S. Coelho and the company he has led for the past 50 years. Please join me in congratulating him for those years of success and service, and wish him and Jenny well in their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DNA
DATABASE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the DNA Database Enhancement Act—legislation that will expand and improve the use of DNA analysis in criminal investigations.

As a former federal prosecutor, I recognize what a powerful tool the use of DNA profiles has become in solving crimes. In 1998, the FBI created a system of DNA profile indexes, the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), to allow participating forensic laboratories to compare DNA profiles with the goal of matching case evidence to other previously unrelated cases or to persons already convicted of specific crimes. This database contains about 1.3 million DNA samples and has yielded more than 6,000 matches in criminal investigations.

Previously, federal law required that a state collect for analysis DNA samples from persons convicted of a felony of a sexual nature. However, the collection of samples from other felons is currently dependent entirely upon state law. The DNA Database Enhancement Act would broaden this collection requirement to include all individuals convicted of violent felonies.

In order to facilitate crime solving and information sharing among local and state law enforcement agencies, my bill would also expand CODIS by permitting states to upload collected DNA samples to the national database. In Virginia, law enforcement is authorized to

collect DNA samples from suspects being charged with violent crimes and other felonies. This has yielded tremendous results, with forensic officials making their 1,000th "cold hit" last year by matching a rape suspect to a 2001 sexual assault case.

Finally, this legislation will increase the effectiveness of DNA databases in crime solving by ensuring that law enforcement can compare DNA samples with CODIS. While most states already run comparisons on collected samples, some states have restrictions on how and when samples can be compared. This bill will increase the effectiveness of DNA databases in crime solving by removing restrictions that impede the comparison of DNA samples against established DNA databases. Where DNA is given voluntarily or obtained by law enforcement in a lawful manner, law enforcement should be able to compare those samples with CODIS.

Recently, the Department of Justice announced a proposal to spend more than \$1 billion over the next five years on DNA analysis in criminal cases. This plan, originally introduced in the Administration's 2004 budget proposal, involves a significant expansion of the FBI's DNA database. The FBI has also announced plans to request authorization to obtain pre-conviction DNA samples from states that currently collect such samples, such as Virginia, Louisiana, and Texas. These joint proposals would dramatically improve the ability to match samples recovered at crime scenes.

With similar goals in mind, my legislation, the DNA Database Enhancement Act, will make important changes to ensure that law enforcement can fully utilize the powerful tool of DNA analysis in solving crimes.

NATIONAL FORMER PRISONER OF
WAR RECOGNITION DAY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served our country in battle and have been taken prisoner. Today is National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. It is right that we pause to honor the sacrifice of veterans like these.

However, Mr. Speaker, we must do more than honor these men and women with words. Talk is cheap. I rise to talk about the Budget that this house passed on March 21. The budget that this House passed hurt veterans by proposing long term cuts to essential health care programs. I was proud to vote against this budget. However, it is important the public fully understand why this budget is so bad for our nation's veterans.

The Budget calls for \$28.3 billion dollars to be cut from veterans health care and other spending on veterans benefits over the next 10 years. This is a disgrace. Why is this body going to cut this money? In order to pay for a \$1.35 trillion tax cut for the wealthiest Americans that doesn't create jobs or stimulate the economy.

So, that means that this Administration and the leadership of the House of Representatives has made a choice. They would rather